

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A format for optical analysis of samples comprising:
  - a light input;
  - an input light guide in optical communication with said light input;
  - an input reflector coupled with said input light guide for forming a portion of an optical communication path;
  - an output reflector in optical communication with said input reflector;
  - a sample cavity disposed between said input reflector and said output reflector;
  - a lancet in communication with said sample cavity;
  - an output light guide coupled with said output reflector for forming a portion of said optical communication path; and
  - a light output,wherein said light input, said input light guide, said input reflector, said sample cavity, said output reflector, said output light guide, and said light output comprise said optical communication path, and wherein at least one of said input light guide and said output light guide is formed by a wall structure to assist in guiding light along said optical communication path, said wall structure including a first end and a second end, said second end being coupled with said input reflector or said output reflector for forming a portion of said optical communication path, said format further comprising a lid disposed approximately parallel to said optical communication path, wherein the format further includes a reagent therein, said lancet being adapted to collect and deposit test material within said sample cavity such that said test material is positioned to interact with said reagent.
2. (Currently Amended) The format of claim 1 further comprising a venting channel connected to said sample cavity, wherein said lancet is positioned within said venting channel.

3. (Previously Presented) The format of claim 1 wherein said input light guide defines a first portion of said optical communication path, and wherein said input reflector is disposed at about a 45-degree angle to said first portion of said optical communication path.

4. (Previously Presented) The format of claim 3 wherein said output light guide defines a second portion of said optical communication path, and wherein said output reflector is disposed at about a 45-degree angle to said second portion of said optical communication path.

5. (Previously Presented) The format of claim 1 wherein the reagent is disposed within said sample cavity.

6. (Previously Presented) The format of claim 5 wherein at least a portion of said lid is adjacent said sample cavity and is provided with the reagent thereon.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A format for optical analysis of a sample comprising:  
an input light guide being formed by a first wall structure having a first end and a second end, said second end being coupled with an input reflector;

an output light guide being formed by a second wall structure having a first end and a second end, said second end being coupled with an output reflector; [[and]]

a light transmission segment disposed between said input reflector and said output reflector, said light transmission segment having a sample cavity and a lid; and  
a lancet in communication with said sample cavity, said lancet being adapted to collect and deposit test material within said sample cavity,

wherein said input light guide, said input reflector, said light transmission segment, said output light guide, and said output reflector form an optical communication path.

9. (Currently Amended) The format of claim 8 wherein said lid has a reagent printed thereon, and wherein said lancet is adapted to deposit at least a portion of said test

material within said sample cavity such that said at least a portion of said test material is positioned to interact with said reagent printed thereon.

10. (Currently Amended) The format of claim 8 further comprising a vent connected to said sample cavity, wherein said lancet is positioned within said venting channel.

11. (Currently Amended) The format of claim 8 wherein said first and said second wall structures each include a top surface, a bottom surface, and two opposing side surfaces such that said input light guide and said output light guide are four-sided light guides, a space between said top and said bottom surfaces being a light guide height and said light transmission segment has a top surface, a bottom surface, and two opposing side surfaces, a space between said top and bottom surfaces being a light transmission segment height, said light transmission height being greater than said light guide height.

12. (Original) The format of claim 11 wherein said input light guide has a height of approximately 0.04 inches and said light transmission segment has a height of approximately 0.08 inches.

13. (Previously Presented) The format of claim 8 wherein said input light guide defines a first portion of said optical communication path and said input reflector is disposed at an angle of about 45 degrees from said first portion of said optical communication path.

14. (Previously Presented) The format of claim 8 wherein said output light guide defines a second portion of said optical communication path and said output reflector is disposed at an angle of about 45 degrees from said second portion of said optical communication path.

15-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) The format of claim 8 ~~further including a~~ wherein said lancet having has a first end for collecting test material and a second end for depositing test material within said sample cavity.

22. (Previously Presented) The format of claim 8 wherein said sample cavity has a main cavity portion and a venting cavity connected to said main cavity portion, said main cavity portion and said venting cavity being defined by a bottom surface opposing said lid and two opposing staggered side surfaces, said main cavity portion having a width between a portion of said two opposing staggered side surfaces of about 0.007 inches.

23. (Previously Presented) The format of claim 8 wherein said sample cavity has a main cavity portion and a venting cavity connected to said main cavity portion, said main cavity portion and said venting cavity being defined by a bottom surface opposing said lid and two opposing staggered side surfaces, said venting cavity having a width between a portion of said two opposing staggered side surfaces of about 0.003 inches or narrower.

24. (Previously Presented) The format of claim 8 wherein said sample cavity has main cavity portion and a venting cavity connected to said main cavity portion, said main cavity portion and said venting cavity being defined by a bottom surface opposing said lid and two opposing staggered side surfaces, said main cavity portion having a width between a first portion of said two opposing staggered side surfaces of about 0.005 inches and said venting cavity having a width between a second portion of said two opposing staggered side surfaces of about 0.002 inches.

25. (Currently Amended) A format for optical analysis of a sample comprising:  
an input light guide coupled with an input reflector;  
an output light guide coupled with an output reflector; [[and]]  
a light transmission segment disposed between said input reflector and said output reflector, said light transmission segment so disposed as to allow light to travel through a light transmission path between said input reflector and said output reflector, said light transmission segment further having a sample cavity and a lid, said lid not intersecting said light transmission path; and

a lancet in communication with said sample cavity, said lancet being adapted to collect and deposit test material within said sample cavity,

wherein the format further includes a reagent therein and wherein at least one of said input light guide and said output light guide is formed by a wall structure to assist in guiding the light along an optical communication path, said optical communication path being formed by at least one of said input light guide, said input reflector, said light transmission segment, said output light guide, and said output reflector.

26. (Previously Presented) The format of claim 25 further comprising a venting channel connected to said sample cavity.

27. (Previously Presented) The format of claim 25 wherein said input light guide defines a first portion of the optical communication path, and wherein said input reflector is disposed at about a 45-degree angle to said first portion of the optical communication path.

28. (Currently Amended) The format of claim 1 wherein said input light guide is formed by a first four-sided wall structure and said output light guide is formed by a second four-sided wall structure.

29. (Previously Presented) The format of claim 25 wherein said input light guide is formed by a first wall structure and said output light guide is formed by a second wall structure.

30. (Currently Amended) The format of claim 29 wherein said first and said second wall structures each include a top surface, a bottom surface, and two opposing side surfaces such that said input light guide and said output light guide are four-sided light guides.